

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-13 SSM-03 OMB-01 /075 W
----- 031601

R 061059Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9008

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 5194

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT SY

SUBJ: DELAY IN ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW SYRIAN CABINET

REF: (A) DAMASCUS 5036, (B) DAMASCUS 5082

FOLLOWING REPORT IN AUG 4 SYRIAN PRESS THAT NEW CABINET EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED EVENING FOLLOWING DAY, AND AUG 5 PRESS REPORT THAT PRES ASAD MET WITH PRIME MINISTER-DELEGATE KHULAYFAWI IN LATAKIA TO DISCUSS OUTCOME OF HIS CONSULTATIONS, AUG 6 PRESS HAS SPECULATED NAMES OF NEW CABINET MEMBERS MAY BE ANNOUNCED AUG 7. WE SUSPECT ASAD'S ABSNECE FROM CAPITAL, AND POSSIBLY KHULAYFAWI'S RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT PRESENCE OF DEPPRIMIN FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS HAYDAR IN HIS GOVERNMENT MAY ACCOUNT FOR APPARENT DELAY IN CONCLUDING CABINET FORMATION. SARG MAY ALSO BE TRYING TO PROMOTE IMPRESSION THROUGH EXTENDED CONSULTATIONS THAT KHULAYFAWI ENGAGED IN SERIOUS POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS CANDIDATES AS PRELUDE TO ACTIVE REFORM EFFORTS ONCE GOVERNMENT SWORN IN.

MURPHY

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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